



Global environmental change: The threat to human health

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Abstract:

Global climate change threatens human health in numerous and profound ways. Large segments of the population will experience more heat waves, altered exposure to infectious disease, and more-frequent natural disasters. Most significantly, climatic disruption threatens the adequacy of the core “building blocks” of health for large populations around the globe: sufficient food and nutrition, safe water for drinking and sanitation, fresh air to breathe, and secure homes to live in. As climate change dismantles these central elements of healthy societies, people with fewer resources will be forced to migrate in large numbers to lands where they may not be welcome. A likely result of all of these processes will be increased civic instability and strife. Our challenge, for the rest of this century and beyond, will be to work to mitigate environmental change (for example, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and to increase the resilience of populations to the impacts of any changes that we are unable to mitigate (such as sea-level rise triggered by past emissions). Neither task should detract from the other; we must pursue both simultaneously and with equal fervor and strategic creativity. Along the way, there will be substantial opportunities to identify co-benefits, whereby a single intervention can both mitigate environmental threats and improve human health. -- Excerpted text.

Source:

<http://www.worldwatch.org/bookstore/publication/worldwatch-report-181-global-environmental-change-threat-human-health>

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker, Researcher

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Human Conflict/Displacement, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise, Temperature

Air Pollution: Allergens, Ozone, Other Air Pollution

Air Pollution (other): Atmospheric brown clouds

Extreme Weather Event: Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Landslides, Wildfires

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Food/Water Quality: Biotoxin/Algal Bloom, Other Water Quality Issue

Water Quality (other): Eutrophication; Ocean temperature

Food/Water Security: Agricultural Productivity, Fisheries, Other Marine Productivity

Temperature: Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature: ☐

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal, Rural, Urban

Geographic Location: ☐

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation): ☐

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Family Planning/Population Reduction): ☐

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to promote family planning or reduce population growth as a climate change adaptation or mitigation measure

A focus of content

Health Impact: ☐

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Infectious Disease, Injury, Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect, Other Health Impact

Infectious Disease: Airborne Disease, Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, General Infectious Disease, Vectorborne Disease, Zoonotic Disease

Airborne Disease: Influenza

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Campylobacteriosis, Cholera, Cryptosporidiosis, E. coli, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Schistosomiasis, Other Diarrheal Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease (other): Dracunculiasis

Vectorborne Disease: Flea-borne Disease, Fly-borne Disease, General Vectorborne, Mosquito-borne Disease, Tick-borne Disease

Flea-borne Disease: Murine Typhus, Plague

Fly-borne Disease: Leishmaniasis, Onchocerciasis, Trypanosomiasis, Other Fly-borne Disease

Fly-borne Disease (other): Filariasis

Mosquito-borne Disease: Dengue, Rift Valley Fever, Viral Encephalitis, West Nile Virus

Tick-borne Disease: Lyme Disease

Zoonotic Disease: General Zoonotic Disease, Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, Other Zoonotic Disease

Zoonotic Disease (other): Bartonellosis

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Stress Disorder

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Other Health Impact: Heat stress

Medical Community Engagement: ☐

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☐

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: ☐

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children

Resource Type: ☐

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Resilience: ☐

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale: ☐

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified